

day filibuster against the Civil Rights Act of 1964; led the southern boycott of the Democratic National Convention in 1964, after LBJ—one of the greatest Presidents ever, in my opinion—signed the Civil Rights Act.

He called the Civil Rights Act short-sighted and dangerous. Those civil rights acts, the act of 1965, when President Johnson signed it, he signed it in ink, but it was written with the blood of those who crossed the Edmund Pettus Bridge, the Honorable John Lewis having been one of them.

I remember talking to him. He said he thought he was going to die.

Signed in ink but written in blood.

John Lewis was a great and noble American.

That Civil Rights Act is probably the reason that I am here. I probably wouldn't be in Congress if not but for what happened on the Edmund Pettus Bridge; people who had the desire to see liberty and justice for all, but who also had the ability to take the blows to their bodies without resorting to retaliation.

If they had retaliated on the Edmund Pettus Bridge, it would have been just another melee. It would have been just another skirmish. But they didn't. And because they suffered, I am able to stand here and make these comments.

So you can well understand, I hope and I pray, that—because I know how I got here—I am not going to tolerate this. I know how I got here.

I didn't get here because I am so smart. I got here because somebody found out what a 90-pound German Shepherd bites like.

I am here because somebody understands what it is like to go to jail for a cause.

I am here because somebody understands what it is like to lose a loved one—Myrlie Evers—for a cause.

So let's not play games. I am not here to satisfy and satiate those who would say wait, give us a chance to do this on our own terms.

You have had 49 years; 49 years too many, in my opinion. So I am not going to wait. And I will be back again to talk more about this after I finish what I am about to say now.

Senator Richard Russell twice, 1949 and 1964, introduced legislation—this is a painful thing to read. This is a painful thing to have to utter—twice introduced legislation to move African Americans out of Southern States. That is Senator Richard Russell.

So dear friends, I beg your pardon if anyone takes offense at what I have said. But I must tell you, I would say it again, and probably will, given the opportunity because, at some point in life, you just have to take a stand.

The people who sent me here, they didn't send me here to go along as a result of toleration of things like this. They didn't send me here to go along so that I could move along. They sent me here to take a stand. And there are times in life when it is better to stand alone than not stand at all.

I am a liberated Democrat. I stand alone, but I stand on truth. I stand on the words of Carlyle, "No lie can live forever."

This is the ultimate manifestation of insidious prevarication to imply that this should be honored with the name of Russell.

Now, there are those who are going to say, well, AL GREEN, what would you name the building? A tactic quite often used, because when I say, well, let's name it—you complete the sentence—they will say, well, I think it ought to be named—you complete the sentence.

But that is not what I am saying, dear brothers and sisters—and I say brothers and sisters, because, in my heart, I believe there is just one race, as Dr. King put it, the human race. And I believe that all persons are created equal, from a bass black to a treble white on God's keyboard, as he put it.

So, my dear brothers and sisters, that is not what I am saying. I am saying, take this name off, Russell. I am saying, let it revert back to the name it had before Russell was placed on it. That name was the Old Senate Office Building. I am saying, let it revert back to the Old Senate Office Building, and you decide the name. The name I will leave to you until and unless there is a need to prevent this from happening again, something similar.

But there are many people worthy of having this building bear their names. This man is not worthy. This man does not deserve this honor.

So let it revert back to the Old Senate Office Building, and then do what we do; get a committee; get a commission; find a way to name it appropriately. And then I believe that those that I speak for, who do not live in the suites of life, who live in the streets of life, those that I speak for, who are among the least, the last, and the lost, those that I speak for, who are not among the well-off, the well-heeled, and the well-to-do, those that I speak for, many of whom have gone to glory, but I believe that they will find reason to know that change, long though it may be in coming, that change can take place, and that this country will be a better place for it. The country I love, by the way.

I am not the guy that you are going to tag with this mantra, this label, this caption, this style: He doesn't love his country. I love my country.

I am not the guy that you are going to tag with, he is a flag burner. I wear the flag.

You can't tag me with being a guy who refuses to stand for the national anthem. I stand and I sing the national anthem.

You can't tag me with being the guy who refuses to say the Pledge of Allegiance. I say the Pledge of Allegiance.

But now, tag me, label me as the guy who loves his country and who refuses to accept this level of bigotry, who refuses to accept allowing the tax dollars from people who are eking out a place in the world, for their tax dollars to be

used for this. I am that guy. I am the guy who is going to stand up for this—against this, if you will.

□ 1445

Finally, this: I never came to Congress to say what I am saying. I came to Congress to help people who were in need of housing. That was what I thought I would do. I came to Congress to help people get a decent day's pay for a hard day's work.

This is not something that I planned, but it is something that I cannot stand, and I have to stand against it. There is just something that won't allow me to tolerate this.

I know that this will engender some additional detractors. I get the calls; I know. But there just comes a time in your life when you have to decide that there are some things worth making a sacrifice for. I choose to do what I do because I know how I got here.

Madam Speaker, I am grateful, and I yield back the balance of my time.

#### DEAL WITH CRISIS AT SOUTHERN BORDER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, it is an honor to follow my fellow former judge from Texas. We both know Jesus, and one of Jesus' comments was that if we were just lukewarm, we would be spit out of the mouth. I know my friend's heart, and he is passionate about things that he sees as unjust, so I know he is in no danger of ever being spit out because he does have that passion and cares so deeply.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. GOHMERT. I yield to the gentleman from Texas, my friend.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend for his kind words. He and I spoke earlier today, and I believe that there are people who assume things about us that are just not true.

There are probably people who assume that he and I don't get along, but they don't understand that there are things that can bring people together that supersede the physicalities that we place all of our emphasis on.

I would have the world know that he and I talk and that we don't have hard conversations about the things that are important to both of us. I appreciate his kind words.

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, I know that we are brothers, and we are going to be together for a long time. I am not talking about here in this Chamber. Anyway, I appreciate my friend very much.

I didn't know anything about Senator Russell, but I have gotten an education. I thank him.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I thank my dear brother. God bless him.

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, my friend was a former judge in Houston. In fact, he was the kind of judge that is the only judge in Texas that is allowed to order an exhumation of a body. We ran into that in one of my criminal trials, and we had to find a justice who would do that. Texas entrusts a great deal with our judges.

I did want to touch on some things that I feel rather passionate about because I know people are being hurt.

My friend CHIP ROY and I were talking earlier. MARJORIE TAYLOR GREENE, MATT ROSENDALE, a number of people spoke on this, but we can't speak enough on what is happening at the border. It is absolutely a crisis, and it really does need to be dealt with.

Regardless of what anybody thinks about President Trump, put that aside and look at the border. Look at what it does to people who have been standing in line for years to come into this country legally.

We know, and it has been established numerous times, people are not allowed to cross the southern border unless they pay something to the drug cartels. It may be paid through the gang member, through the coyote that is bringing them into the country, but it is still the drug cartels. They are still in the drug business; they are still in the prostitution and sex-trafficking business.

It disturbs me that not enough Americans are upset about how much sex trafficking has gone on. They get absolutely worked up when they find out an American has been pulled into sex trafficking and not allowed to get out of it. But it happens all the time, especially with Hispanics from south of our border. The rapes that occur along the way have been established by different groups and means.

It is just an abomination that more people are not upset, deeply upset, about what is going on, enough so that a majority in both Chambers, House and Senate, would do something about it, not leave incentives out there dangling to lure more people into dealing with the drug cartels. It used to be they made most of their money from the drug trafficking, and that is still probably true.

As I started to mention earlier, my friend CHIP ROY and I had an article dangled in our hearing that says, oh, gee, more drugs came in through public ports of entry than came through illegally across other parts of the border.

But what I have seen with my own eyes and heard with my own ears, spending a lot of time down on the border, the Border Patrol, when they see a big group, especially with a bunch of children, most of the ones I talk to say we know when we get a group like that, the drug cartels are coordinating when they come across the border, especially there at the river south of McAllen.

They know, when they send a group like that, especially in the middle of the night, it is going to take a lot of

border patrolmen to go through, ask the questions, document, and in-process each one. They will tell you that is when we know they are sending drugs. Sometimes, it may be a high-value person who they are trying to get across into the U.S.

But I know, one night, on the Texas Department of Public Safety boats—they have a couple of them there on that part of the river. They have the thermal technology and night vision. They were identifying people along the river waiting to come across. The Border Patrol identified the groups, and eventually, the Border Patrol said: Why don't you guys go back to the dock, and then we will catch them trying to enter?

Well, I thought that meant they would be turned away. But this was during the Obama administration, and their instructions were: No, don't turn anybody away. Just in-process them.

There were numerous groups of more than 10 or 20 in size, and we got the report from the Border Patrol that they caught all the groups that were going to cross. But those groups of two or three that appeared to be bringing drugs, they somehow knew where to come across and come into some bushes, and we never found them.

It is impossible for anyone to report how much in the way of drugs comes across our border outside of a public port of entry, an official port of entry, because they don't catch them.

In fact, it seems like, from my experience of being there, I have seen—actually, it surprised me. It sure surprised them. There were some guys that were up on a pump cage, and they were on the move. They had people with them. They were on the move.

It was because they knew a big group had just come across the Rio Grande River, and the Border Patrol had seen the truck. I knew the direction they came from. I had seen the truck. They knew that the Border Patrol would have to zoom to where all of those people were, have to get some kind of a bus like they have there, and process all of those people at the site and get them on the bus and bring them into McAllen.

These guys knew all of the Border Patrol was tied up with the people. They had a bunch of kids in that group, so that meant they really had to concentrate on that group. These were clearly people who were doing something illicit and illegal.

I didn't see their drugs, but they clearly were doing something very illicit, and they also knew that the Border Patrol was going to be tied up.

I visited with the Border Patrol and had seen what they were doing, watched some of the in-processing, but they knew how long it took to in-process a group like that. They knew they had time to do what they wanted. It was only a mile or two up the road from where they knew the Border Patrol was occupied.

There were a couple of guys up as lookouts and some others who were

carrying something down below, but they all took off into the trees. I didn't know if they were armed, and I wasn't armed at the time, so I didn't pursue them.

You have to know, there are a lot of things that cross the border that nobody has accounted for. Look at the business model. If you don't have any conscience, it is a great business model. Fortunately, most people I know do have a conscience and would never do this. But without a conscience, they are thinking: Okay, we need drug salespeople in every town in America. All we have to do is get them across the border, give them the address where we want them to sell drugs.

They give that to the Border Patrol, and either HHS or ICE gets them where they want them. That is why Border Patrol says the drug cartels call us their logistics. They get their future employees across the border.

They think that they are just coming and going to have a free life in America, but they are going to be working for the drug cartels. It is not slavery, as that abomination is known, but it is a form of indentured servitude. They owe being in the United States to the drug cartels, and they are going to have to pay them. They made that deal to get into the U.S.

The reason they were willing to make that deal to get in the U.S. now is because they keep hearing the Biden administration is going to let everybody in and give them all amnesty. That lures more and more people into these terrible circumstances. It needs to stop.

I will repeat again what I have been saying for years. The most caring, compassionate thing we could do for our neighbor Mexico and its citizens to the south of us, when we know they have great raw materials, great minerals, wonderful hardworking people, the majority of whom believe in a God, as most of the Founders did—they love their families.

□ 1500

I love watching Hispanic family reunions. It reminds me so much of reunions I used to see in the town where I grew up. They love their families. That is a wonderful thing. These attributes that folks south of the border have, those are things that help make America the greatest Nation in the world, and we need more of what they have, but it needs to be done legally.

And to not care at the way that they are manipulated by the cartels?

Their business model, send them across. The U.S. taxpayers will pay to ship them to whatever town we want them to sell drugs in or be involved in prostitution or human trafficking themselves. The U.S. taxpayers will pay to ship them there. And then once there, they all know, we know where their families are in Mexico or Central America, and they will keep paying as long as we tell them or they know we

don't mind cutting off heads, cutting off appendages, and sending the message.

So the best thing we could do, though, secure the border. Dry up that tens of billions of dollars, maybe over a hundred billion dollars a year that they get from the drug business, from the human trafficking, from the sex trafficking. Dry that money up. We will never dry it completely up because there are always people who will look for ways.

But you cut that \$80 billion or \$100 billion or so down to even \$10 billion, it dries up their ability to control so much of the national and local government. It would surely put an end to so many policemen, police chiefs, and mayors that have stood up to the cartels only to have their heads cut off and, in some cases, put on a pike.

We are providing the money in this country to the drug cartels to create corruption run amok in the Mexican Government. So caring, compassionate people would say, let's dry up the drug cartels' money, and that will do more for the American people.

They won't have to put their lives at risk or risk sexual abuse, all kinds of abuse, death, being left by coyote out in the desert somewhere. They won't have to risk that because the country they love—many will say, "I would rather stay there if there were opportunity."

They get the opportunity if we help end the corruption. But there is corruption enough. Talking to a DEA agent earlier this afternoon, there is so much corruption you don't know who even in the national government is on the payroll of the drug cartels.

So let's help the Mexican people, Central American people, even some from South America, let's help them by giving them the freedom in their own country without a corrupt government so they can have the kind of freedom we have here.

In this article from March 10th, Alex Nitzberg says: "More than 92,000 Clark County, NV mail ballots returned undeliverable in general election."

It talks about corruption in the last election. Just tragic, tragic stuff. If we keep heading this direction, we are surely going to end up like some of these corrupt countries.

But there is another article I just saw today that indicates that Venezuelans are coming from Venezuela into the United States illegally, and why they are doing that is because of the corruption and oppression in Venezuela.

Under their progressive, Socialist country government down there, they have taken what many say was the most prosperous, vibrant country in South America, Venezuela, all the oil they had there. They took that country and, as socialism will ultimately do wherever it is tried, turned it into a fiasco. So the Venezuelans were fleeing and coming to the United States.

And the question continues to come as to what will Americans do? Where

will they go? When the path we are on to become the devastated Venezuela are perpetrated on America, where will Americans go?

They can't go to Venezuela. It has already been economically and socially destroyed by the Socialists.

And as friends from Australia told me a few years ago, you know, if anything happens to the freedom in the United States, you are not going to be coming to Australia. They felt like China would take them over before anybody in the U.S. had time to go there. There will be no place to go.

You know, Venezuela, they have got America to try to get into since their wonderful, vibrant country has been destroyed by socialism. We won't have anywhere.

As I think Reagan said, this is the last best chance on Earth. We have been so blessed. And the old saying about give a man a fish and he can eat for a day; teach him how to fish, and he can eat for a lifetime. Instead of just saying, yeah, come on to America, we will let everybody in and we will all pay you welfare, we will give you free healthcare, ultimately the whole system will be bankrupt and nobody will have anywhere to go, why not help them get rid of the corruption and stay in the country they love?

Then we have neighbors like Mexico and Venezuela, if we can help them stop the corruption, with whom we can trade, we can visit, we can vacation.

My wife and I had our honeymoon at a place in Mexico. We haven't been back in recent years, though we thought about it, as we keep celebrating anniversaries. It would be nice to go back where we had our honeymoon, but there is just too much corruption in Mexico and it is not worth the chance, in our opinion.

So wouldn't it be wonderful if we took a stand, we dried up the drug culture, the drug cartels' money by securing our Southern border?

And then the Mexican people have a vibrant country that Americans fall in love with all over again. We visit, vacation there. They visit, vacation here. And we mutually help each other. But continuing to fund tens of billions of dollars to go to the drug cartels in Mexico keeps the Mexican people under the thumb of the drug cartel corruption.

Now, going back to the point about the DEA, the U.S. Government, they cannot know how much in the way of drugs that they don't know about. And I know I have got friends on the other side of the aisle who think, oh, well, there is a report, there is more drugs going through our public ports of entry than there are going across our border, where we don't know they are crossing.

The truth is, we don't know what we don't know about how much and what kind of drugs are coming across our border.

I know. I voted against putting Sudafed behind the counter, but I understood drugstores, grocery stores had

a problem with people stealing it because that was an ingredient in making methamphetamine. But according to what pharmacies and others tell me, law enforcement, in Texas, okay, once you put Sudafed behind the counter, making it harder to get, certainly harder to steal, homegrown meth ceased being the problem it used to be, and now we are getting much stronger drugs coming from Mexico, and they are much more addictive than even the methamphetamine.

And I had enough people come in, meth cases that I totally understand. It is extremely addictive. But now we have got more and worse drugs coming from Mexico than what we had when they were homemade. It did get more difficult for a while when a new way of cooking methamphetamine, what they called a cold cook, didn't smell as bad. For so long it was easy to find meth plants because they smelled so bad.

But, anyway, how much meth being cooked, not to the extent it used to be in Texas. They are bringing up stronger, more addictive, more individual-destroying drugs from Mexico.

President Trump did what he could to get the border secure. We were on the way to a much more secure border.

In fact, people are not aware in the second term of George W. Bush, a number of Texas Members of Congress were upset that more had not been done by a Republican administration headed by a Texan to secure our border. And, actually, President Bush had Karl Rove meet with us. And we began to meet every 2 weeks, as I recall, and Rove would have the latest report every 2 weeks about how much progress was being made toward securing our border.

One thing he didn't have—that President Bush didn't have was more fence or walls on the Southern border, which makes it easier. Sure, people can build a bigger ladder, as some used to say, but it at least slows them down where it is easier to keep them out of the country with their illicit, illegal drugs and sex trafficking.

So President Trump knew the value of a wall, and his knowledge of how important a wall or a fence was has been totally and for all time confirmed by the Democratic administration and the Speaker and the Senate majority leader, as evidenced by the wall or fence, whatever you want to call it, with all the razor wire around the top. Some places you have got two layers of that.

So all this time people were saying, you know, it doesn't help, you can't stop people. It doesn't do any good. But we knew it did good because former President Obama got him a new house up somewhere around here and built a 10-foot wall around it. So we knew, regardless of what people were saying, they knew that a wall or a fence could make a difference.

But we are hoping that since there is no threat and since the concerns that the Speaker and majority leader here in the House had that there was going to be another inauguration last Thursday—we knew that wasn't going to

happen. I am just surprised that they were believing QAnon. I didn't know anybody on our side who believed QAnon, but apparently the Speaker and the majority leader were concerned that QAnon knew what he or she or they, whatever it is, were talking about. So we called off Congress—they called off Congress last Thursday.

So we are hoping that as they see that their beliefs and their concerns are being assuaged, the acting chief of the Capitol Police has confirmed there is no Member of Congress who is a threat to another Member of Congress, no intel from any source that indicates that. I have had friends across the aisle say, well, LAUREN BOEBERT talked about wanting to bring a gun on the floor, and that is scary.

□ 1515

Well, that is also a testimony that firearms can be the great equalizer. Lauren tells me she is five foot exactly, so that should reaffirm if she has got people in this body that are concerned about her, it is not because of her five foot status, it is because sometimes she has a firearm with her, and it truly is the great equalizer.

And I don't hear a lot of people talking about the number of lives that are saved by law-abiding citizens that have firearms and prevent crimes.

Madam Speaker, I see my time is expiring. I yield back the balance of my time.

#### THE CURRENT ISSUE AT THE BORDER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak one more time about the current issue at the border.

We have gone from a situation in which 1 year ago at this time there were 36,000 confrontations at the border to last February 100,000 encounters at the border.

In addition to a three-fold increase, there has been a corresponding increase in unaccompanied children at the border.

How did this happen? There are several policies that should be re-instituted immediately.

First of all, prior to President Trump being sworn in, we had a policy in which the Mexican Government was keeping people on their side of the border pending an asylum hearing. We have now undone that policy, which does three things:

First of all, new people arriving at the border are escorted into the United States and sent somewhere inland.

Secondly, people who have been waiting on the Mexican side of the border are coming across.

And thirdly, you are sending the message around the world that the United States is not enforcing their

immigration laws the way they are intended to be enforced. The word gets out, be it in Central America, be it in Mexico, be it in Asia, be it in Brazil, the United States is inviting people in. And with that situation comes the three-fold increase.

Jeh Johnson, the Secretary of Homeland Security under President Obama said at one time that 1,000 encounters a day at the southern border was a bad number. We now have three times what was considered a bad number under Barack Obama.

The next thing we are doing is, we are getting rid of the agreements we had in Central America. President Trump maybe tweeted too much, but he engaged in negotiations with Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras so that people stayed down there, rather than coming through Mexico to the United States. He did it, to a certain extent, with the carrot and stick of foreign aid which the United States had sent to those countries. That policy has also changed. And with the change in that policy people are streaming up through Central America.

Again, from year to year there has been a 61 percent increase in unaccompanied children. People purport to say that they care about children being separated from their parents. Well, when you have more and more unaccompanied children showing up at the border, what do you think that means? These children inevitably are going to wind up separated from their parents, keeping families apart.

I should point out, by the way, another thing that I am told bothers Central American countries. In this country in an effort to sometimes keep a child with both parents, if the parents don't get along that well, courts make an effort to keep both parents in the same region.

I am told that the Central American countries do not like the fact that the United States sometimes will take children with even one parent, leaving the other parent behind. I think it would be better if we improved our relationship with those countries by trying to keep children with both parents.

Other things that have been done is, sadly, we stopped the border wall construction. When I was down at the border we learned, with regard to the border wall, it takes four or five agents to man 2 miles of the old wall, which was sometimes little more than minor fencing. Now, with the new wall we need one Border Patrol agent for 2 miles, so there is a substantial savings there, as well.

The catch and release policies are back, and with it a crisis is coming. America has to apply more pressure or tell the Biden administration, please, there is a reason why we have tripled the number of people, the number of encounters our Border Patrol is having today compared to this time last year. It is the policies that have been implemented in the first month and a half of the Biden administration.

Please, President Biden, go back to the old policies in which people are held on the southern border and people can get a good hearing on their asylum claims, rather than creating a system in which, as a practical matter, people come here illegally and wind up just blending into the background.

It is unfair to the people who are trying to access our country legally that people are coming here illegally and skipping ahead of them. Inevitably, as we take people without vetting them, we are getting a given number of people taking advantage of our benefits, and we are getting a number of people who are sneaking illegal drugs across the southern border.

So, again, we have sent letters to President Biden, and I please ask him to respond to these letters and let the American public know: What is your plan to stop 100,000 people a month coming across the border before that 100,000 becomes 200,000 or 300,000?

And it will become 200,000 or 300,000 because people around the world are watching the President, and if the President continues to make it clear he does not intend to enforce the border, people from all around the world will be coming here.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 5(a)(1)(B) of House Resolution 8, the House stands adjourned until 10:30 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon (at 3 o'clock and 22 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, March 12, 2021, at 10:30 a.m.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-565. A letter from the OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Covered Defense Telecommunications Equipment or Services (DFARS Case 2018-D022) [Docket: DARS-2019-0063] (RIN: 0750-AJ84) received February 25, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-566. A letter from the OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Repeal of DFARS Clause "Tariff Information" (DFARS Case 2018-D044) [Docket: DARS-2019-0031] (RIN: 0750-AK07) received February 25, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-567. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Confidentiality of Substance Use Disorder Patient